

Message Text

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46
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 091410Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5500
AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 3975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BF, CS
SUBJECT: VESCO EXTRADITION: ALLEGATION THAT VESCO MAY SEEK TO
FLEE TO COSTA RICA

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING
ALLEGATION: THAT ON NOVEMBER 6, JOSE
MARTI FIGUERES AND PRESIDENT FIGUERES
SPOKE BY TELEPHONE WITH VESCO IN THE
BAHAMAS; THAT DURING THE CONVERSATION
ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WHEREBY VESCO WOULD
FLY TO COSTA RICA NEXT TUESDAY, THE DAY OF
HIS COURT APPEARANCE, BY PRIVATE AIRPLANE,
LANDING NOT AT THE SAN JOSE AIRPORT BUT AT
AN UNDETERMINED PRIVATE AIRSTRIP AND WOULD
THEN BE SECLUDED IN FIGUERES' FINCA, LA
LUCHA. ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, BAHAMIAN
AUTHORITIES WOULD TRY TO LOOK THE OTHER
WAY AS LONG AS THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT
DAMAGING BAHAMIAN RELATIONS WITH THE US.

2. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS
COMPLETELY UNTESTED AS TO RELIABILITY
AS AN INFORMANT, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND
HE IS A SOBER PERSON NOT KNOWN TO BE GIVEN
TO EITHER RUMOR MONGERING OR FABRICATION.
IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE COULD HAVE HAD
SECRET

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ACCESS TO FACTS SUCH AS THESE IF THEY
OCCURRED. IN SHORT, WHILE WE DO NOT
KNOW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT, THERE IS
ENOUGHT ABOUT THE STORY AND THE SOURCE TO

LEAD US TO CALL IT TO ADDRESSEES' ATTENTION.
I SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT IT IS FULLY
WITHIN DON PEPE'S CHARACTER TO UNDERTAKE
SUCH A WILD AND SEEMINGLY IRRATIONAL ACT.
THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT HE DID FOR TEJA,
WHEN HE WAS WANTED BY THE UK AND THE
INDIAN GOVERNMENTS. AND WE DO KNOW THAT
LAST JUNE WHEN WE PRESENTED OUR EXTRADITION
REQUEST, JOSE MARTI PRIVATELY RANTED THAT
HE WOULD HIDE VESCO BEFORE ALLOWING HIM
TO BE "TAKEN". STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED
IN TICO LAND.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE THAT IT
WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TAKE SOME PRECAUTIONS
EVEN THOUGH THE CHANCES ARE THAT THIS IS
A WILD STORY. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT
EMBASSY NASSAU INFORM APPROPRIATE BAHAMIAN
AUTHORITIES THAT REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED
THAT VESCO MIGHT TRY TO LEAVE THE BAHAMAS
FOR COSTA RICA ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY
(WITHOUT IDENTIFYING FIGUERES' PART OR
SOURCE AS COSTA RICAN) AND SUGGESTING PRECAUTIONS.
IF THERE IS NOTHING TO THE
STORY, NO HARM DONE; IF THERE IS, BAHAMIAN
AUTHORITIES MAY BE ABLE TO FRUSTRATE IT; AND
IF THEY SUPPOSEDLY WERE PREPARED TO LOOK THE
OTHER WAY, THEY MAY THINK BETTER OF IT AND
THEREFORE FRUSTRATE IT.

VAKY

SECRET

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